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Research boards for suggesting means for remedying irrigation defects.

* 104 *Q.*—SRI RAO BAHADUR M. RAMAN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether his attention has been drawn to an article published in the *Hindu* and the *Madras Mail* of 22nd March 1938 regarding defective irrigation facilities in certain districts and formation of research boards for suggesting improvements, and if so, what action, if any, has been taken in the matter; and

(*b*) whether the Government propose to act in the manner suggested in the article?

THE HON. MR. YAKUB HASAN:—" The question presumably refers to a letter published in the *Hindu* and *Madras Mail* of 22nd March 1938. The Government have perused the letter in question and do not consider it necessary to form research boards for suggesting improvements."

Appointment of Mr. Atmuri Nageswara Rao as Special Officer of Arinigedda panchayat, Divi taluk, Kistna district.

* 105. *Q.*—SRI RAO BAHADUR M. RAMAKRISHNA REDDI on behalf of Sri B. Narayanaswami Nayudu: Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that Mr. Atmuri Nageswara Rao, Special Officer of Arinigedda panchayat, Divi taluk, Kistna, was on the date of his appointment to the said office, President of the East Kistna Congress Committee of otherwise connected with any Congress Committees;

(*b*) on whose recommendation or on what information was the said appointment made;

(*c*) whether any petitions and representations were sent to the Government making certain allegations against the special officer; if so, what action have the Government taken on them;

(*d*) whether there is a proposal to extend the term of the office of the said special officer and if so, on what grounds; and

(*e*) what the pay of the special officer is and what his educational qualifications are; who the persons recommended are by the district board president and what their qualifications are?

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—" (*a*) The answer is in the affirmative.

" (*b*) The appointment was made by the Inspector of Municipal Councils and Local Boards under the powers delegated to him by Government under section 45-A of the Madras Local Boards Act, 1920. The Government have no other information.

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"(c) The answer is in the affirmative. Orders have since been issued placing the District Panchayat Officer in charge of the panchayat board.

"(d) The question does not arise in view of the answer to clause (c).

"(e) The ex-special officer was not paid salary but a honorarium of Rs. 15 per mensem. His qualifications are not known. The candidate recommended by the President, District Board, Kistna, was one Kathari Manikya Ramachandra Rao (son of Sarishtadar-Magistrate, Taluk office, Nandigama), a graduate of the Andhra University."

SRI K. P. MALLIKARJUNUDU :—"With reference to the answer to clause (a) of the question, may I know whether there is any disqualification attached to a person to be appointed as special officer, if he is connected with the Congress Committee?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—"None, Sir."

Circular, if any, to the trustees and executive officers of religious endowments for preferring khadi to mill cloth.

* 106 Q.—SRI RAO BAHADUR M. RAMAKRISHNA REDDI on behalf of Sri B. Narayanaswami Nayudu: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state whether trustees and executive officers of religious endowments have been circularized by the Hindu Religious Endowments Board to prefer khadi to mill-yarn in making purchases of cloth for temple purposes; whether the board circularized in the said manner on instructions from the Government or *suo motu*?

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—"Yes; the board issued a circular in the manner set out in the question at the instance of Government with a view to encourage khadi."

Damages caused by floods in Kistna district and preventive measures taken.

* 107 Q.—SRI K. P. MALLIKARJUNUDU : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government are aware of the damage caused to portions of the Kistna district by the periodical floods of the Budameru;

(b) what proposals have been made to prevent the damage; and

(c) what action do the Government propose to take either to avoid or to mitigate the damage so occasioned?

THE HON. MR. YAKUB HASAN :—"(a) The answer is in the affirmative.